

SENATE RESOLUTION 127

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to recognize genealogist and historian Virginia Hailey Sanders.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this legislative body to recognize those dedicated stewards of Tennessee's rich history whose invaluable contributions enrich the lives of so many and will continue to do so throughout the generations; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Virginia Hailey Sanders, who has devoted twenty-five years to genealogical and historical research regarding the Haley family, the best-known member of which is author Alex Haley; and

WHEREAS, the late Alex Haley, whose boyhood home is in Henning, was the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, which tells the story of his family history going back to the days of slavery; the book was adapted into a popular miniseries in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Hailey Sanders is the great-granddaughter of George Haley, Alex Haley's grandfather; George Haley was portrayed in *Roots* and given the name "Chicken George," a fitting moniker, as he was known as the "King of Chickens" in the early 1900s in Holly Springs, Mississippi, in Marshall County, where he and the late Ida B. Wells were housed on the William Cathey plantation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sanders has diligently researched the Haley family for two and a half decades, unearthing stories, bloodlines, and various aliases that together shed light on the saga of this Tennessee family; and

WHEREAS, her research has resulted in the book *Secrets Among Kinfolks*, a memoir and work of historical fiction in which she chronicles the lives of "Chicken George" and others who were integral to the Haley family story; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is most fortunate to have such a devoted and enterprising genealogist and historian as Ms. Sanders, and it is fitting that she be commended for her work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize Virginia Hailey Sanders for her extensive, thorough genealogical and historical research on the Haley family, extending our best wishes for her continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.